

§ 2503.20

and procedures shall provide that participants:

(1) Will participate in a program that will prepare them to earn a high school diploma or the equivalent (non-high school graduates);

(2) May arrange to receive academic credit in recognition of the education and skills obtained from service satisfactorily completed; and

(3) Will use service-learning methods whenever practicable.

§ 2503.20 Matching requirement.

(a) The Federal share of each grant awarded under this part shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of the community service activities carried out with each such grant.

(b) The non-Federal share may be in cash (from non-Federal public or private funds) or in-kind.

§ 2503.21 Age, citizenship, and other criteria for enrollment.

(a) Age and Citizenship. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, enrollment in projects that receive assistance under this program shall be limited to individuals who, at the time of enrollment, are:

(i) Not less than 16 years nor more than 25 years of age, except that summer programs may include individuals not less than 15 years of age nor more than 21 years of age at the time of the enrollment of such individuals; and

(ii) Citizens or nationals of the United States or lawful permanent resident aliens of the United States.

(2) A program agency may limit enrollment to any age group within the range specified above.

(b) Participation of Disadvantaged Youth. Programs that receive assistance shall ensure that educationally and economically disadvantaged youth, including youth in foster care who are becoming too old for foster care, youth with disabilities, youth with limited English proficiency, youth with limited basic skills or learning disabilities, and homeless youth, are offered opportunities to enroll.

(c) Special Corps Members. Program agencies may enroll a limited number of special corps members over age 25 so that the corps may draw on their special skills to fulfill the purposes of this

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Chapter. Projects are encouraged to consider senior citizens as special corps members.

§ 2503.22 Joint projects with senior citizens' organizations.

Program agencies shall use not more than 2 percent of amounts received to conduct joint projects with senior citizens' organizations to enable senior citizens to serve as mentors for youth participants.

§ 2503.23 Use of volunteers.

Program agencies may use volunteer services for purposes of assisting projects and may expend funds made available to provide for services or costs incidental to the utilization of such volunteers, including transportation, supplies, lodging, recruiting, training, and supervision. The use of volunteer services may not result in the displacement of any participant.

§ 2503.24 Post-service benefits.

Program agencies shall provide post-service education and training benefits (such as scholarships and grants) for each participant in an amount that is not in excess of \$100 per week, or in excess of \$5,000 per year, whichever is less.

§ 2503.25 Living allowance and other benefits.

(a) Full-time service allowance. (1) Each participant in a full-time youth corps program that receives assistance under this Part shall receive a living allowance of not more than 100 percent of the poverty line for a family of two. Program agencies have the flexibility to establish the amount of living allowance in accordance with this part.

(2) Notwithstanding this paragraph, a program agency may provide participants with additional amounts for living expenses that are made available from non-Federal sources.

(b) Adjustment to allowance. A program agency may deduct, from the amounts required to be provided to a participant, a reasonable portion of the costs of the rates for any room and board that is provided for such participant at a residential facility. Such deducted funds shall be deposited into rollover accounts that shall be used

solely to defray the costs of room and board for participants. In addition, the program agency shall establish the amount of the deductions and rates for any room and board after evaluating the costs of providing these services to the participant.

(c) Allowance for quarters. For purposes of section 5911 of title 5, United States Code, relating to allowances for quarters, a participant or crew leader shall be considered an employee of the United States within the meaning of the term "employee" as defined in paragraph (a)(3) of that section.

(d) No requirement for a reduction in existing benefits. A program in existence as of November 16, 1990, is not required to decrease any stipends, salaries, or living allowances provided to participants in such program as a result of any of the above requirements, so long as the amount of any such stipends, salaries, or living allowances that is in excess of the levels specified above are paid from non-Federal sources.

(e) Health insurance. In addition to a living allowance, program agencies are encouraged to provide health insurance to each participant in a full-time youth corps program who does not otherwise have access to health insurance.

§2503.26 Miscellaneous duties and authorities of program agencies.

(a) *Responsibilities to participant.* A program agency may provide facilities, quarters, and board and shall provide limited and emergency medical care, transportation from administrative facilities to work sites, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, child care and other supportive services, and other appropriate services, supplies, and equipment to each participant.

(b) *Operation of maintenance agreements.* Program agencies may enter into contracts and other appropriate arrangements with local government agencies and nonprofit organizations for the operation or management of any projects or facilities under the program.

(c) *Coordination.* Program agencies shall coordinate their projects with related Federal, State, local, and private activities.

(d) *Limitation on placement.* No participant shall perform any specific activity for more than a six-month period. No participant shall remain enrolled in programs assisted under this part for more than 24 months.

§2503.27 Health and safety standards.

(a) Program agencies shall establish and meet standards and enforcement procedures concerning the health and safety of participants for all projects, consistent with Federal, State, and local health and safety standards.

(b) Due to the wide variety of eligible activities and locations in which these activities may be performed, the Commission will not set separate standards for these programs. The Commission requires that program agencies meet the existing Federal, State, and local health and safety standards that would otherwise be applicable to the particular location of the project and the activity being performed if the activity were performed by regular employees of the program.

§2503.28 Federal and State employee status.

(a) *General Responsibility.* Participants and crew leaders shall be responsible to, or be a responsibility of, the program agency administering the program on which such participants, crew leaders, and volunteers work.

(b) *General Treatment as a Non-Federal Employee.* Except as otherwise provided under paragraphs (c) and (d) of this Section, a participant or crew leader in a program that receives assistance shall not be considered a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment.

(c) *Work-Related Injury.* A participant or crew leader serving in a program that receives assistance shall be considered an employee of the United States, within the meaning of the term *employee* as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to the compensation of Federal employees for work injuries. The provision of that subchapter shall apply, except: